



**For Immediate Release
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Senate Detroit Caucus Members to Unveil Proposal to Return Control of Detroit School Board Back to the Citizens of Detroit

DETROIT – State senators representing the city of Detroit today were joined by some of their colleagues from the House of Representatives to unveil their proposal for returning control of the Detroit School Board back to the citizens of Detroit.

“All that we are asking for is that the Detroit School Board gets treated like every other school board across the state,” said State Sen. Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park). “A promise was made to return full control back to the people and so we are here to remind Mayor Kilpatrick and Gov. Granholm that a promise made should be a promise kept.”

The senators stated that they were unified in their opposition to any change or compromise that will move the November 2004 Detroit School Board election date and that ultimate accountability for all board members must rest with the citizens of Detroit.

Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman (D-Detroit) said, “What we are calling for is a new day and a new board for Detroit schools after five long years of injustice. Detroiters had their voice stolen from them in 1999 and we demand that it be returned 100 percent. We will help make Detroit’s voters whole again, once and for all.”

In addition to the November election date and elected school board members with no mayoral-appointed CEO, the senators also stated that they would be active in helping identify, recruit and campaign for school board members who will put the interests of Detroit students first.

Sen. Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) said, “Part of nurturing good students and building a world-class school district comes from finding board members who have the passion, integrity, and dedication to build a better future for Detroit schools. We will make it a priority to find community leaders who have the aptitude to be board members who are as committed to improving educational opportunities in the city as we are.”

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Sen. Clarke also proposed establishing a task force to improve education opportunities for students by focusing on pre-school, after-school, and mentoring programs.

Sen. Burton Leland (D-Detroit) said, “While it’s admirable that Mayor Kilpatrick shares our goal of improving public education in Detroit, I don’t feel that restricting the public’s control and input over its own school board is the way to go about. It’s time to trust the people of Detroit again to make the right decisions relative to their own school board.”

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